

Dear Members of the Human Services Committee:

My name is Eli Esmen Berduo, I am a resident of Hartford. I am a member of *Hartford Deportation Defense*. I support **HB 6616: An Act Relating to the Expansion of HUSKY Health Benefits for Persons Ineligible Due to Immigration Status.**

Without health insurance, things are more difficult and complicated. My visit to the hospital started at 9:00am in the morning and I was discharged at 4:00am the following day. I was asked if I was feeling ok and although I was not, I said yes, because what was worrying me more was the bill that I was going to get just for being there. I think twice before seeking medical attention and only go when necessary, in a serious emergency. With medical insurance, I would not be so worried about the financial burden and I would seek medical attention with more ease.

I'm here supporting **HB 6616** because we need everyone to have access to health insurance. This law will cover my daughter, but all my children need me to be healthy, and the government should cover me as well.

Thanks for your time,

Eli Esmen Berduo